

# FOREIGN MISSION ASPECTS *of the* FIVE YEAR PROGRAM



AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY  
FORD BUILDING BOSTON, MASS.



# Foreign Mission Aspects of the Five Year Program

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WE are living in an age in which everything is judged in terms of bigness and immensity. The day of small things has passed away. World events are measuring up to gigantic proportions. War is waged on a scale hitherto unknown in military history. Industrial corporations wax great and mighty. In international politics colossal armaments and strategic positions are the deciding factors. Because they have discovered the secret of huge organization the forces of evil are intrenching themselves more firmly into every realm of human life. Mammonism and materialism have seemingly reached the zenith of their power.

In a world situation such as this the Church must rise to the emergency. Feeble efforts cannot conquer mighty evils. When Adoniram Judson sent back his appeal from Burma it was the bigness of the challenge that organized Baptists into a missionary denomination. Any undertaking that demands vision, courage, heroism, always appeals and generally wins. So the Church in order to make the world crisis of today a turning point in the history of the Kingdom of God must present a program of effort so big, so tremendous and so compelling as to challenge the attention of the world. Let there be no misunderstanding. A mere program however gigantic will not challenge unless there is behind it a mighty spiritual emphasis that will assure success.

The Five Year Program adopted by the Northern Baptist Convention at Los Angeles, California, May 24, 1915, will probably be recorded in denominational history as the greatest forward step since the days of Judson. Its bigness is seen in its heroic, statesmanlike missionary aims. The realization of its objective would give the Baptist denomination a world influence heretofore unreached. The several goals of the program *as they relate to the work of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society* are therefore worthy of special consideration.

THE FIRST GOAL IS THE BAPTISM OF ONE MILLION CONVERTS AT HOME AND ABROAD WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. The number mentioned is by no means too high. If every one of the 1,552,016 Baptists at home and abroad today would be the means of winning one individual each for the Kingdom during a period of five years there would result an addition by baptism of 552,016 more than the desired million. A revived emphasis on personal evangelism would easily accomplish this result. One danger, however, needs to be recognized at the beginning. In the endeavor to win a million additions to our churches great care must be exercised that every one of the

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million comes as a sincere and genuine convert. The Baptist principle of regenerated church membership must not be placed in jeopardy by the lust of statistics.

The missionaries of the Foreign Mission Society have always emphasized evangelism. Since the days of Adoniram Judson 317,790 converts have been baptized in non-Christian lands and 282,151 in Europe, a total of 599,941 baptisms.

The opportunities presenting themselves to the missionaries at the present time give assurance that even larger results may be expected in the immediate future. Present indications point to an evangelistic ingathering within the next five years which will easily constitute the foreign field share of the coveted million accessions. The mass movements in India are well known to all Baptists who remember the name of Dr. John E. Clough. Spiritual forces at work in India today are beginning to give evidence of results and the near future will undoubtedly witness an acceptance of Christianity on a gigantic scale never before experienced in Christian history. Recently a report came from one of our missionaries in Burma that in the Kengtung field the Christian leaven had been working its way for fifteen years and now there are hundreds of villages with a total population of several thousand anxiously begging for missionaries and workers and expressing a readiness to accept the gospel immediately. The wonderful results of the recent evangelistic meetings among the educated classes in China have challenged the attention of the entire Christian world and missionaries are of the opinion that these are but the beginnings of a great awakening in China, if only adequate advantage is taken of the present favorable situation. The three year evangelistic campaign throughout Japan has already experienced remarkable success although little more than a year has passed since it was inaugurated. These and many other opportunities lie before the missionaries of the Society today and there is every prospect that the period covered by the Five Year Program will witness the greatest foreign mission achievements in the history of the denomination.

In view of the foregoing the Board of Managers of the Society desire to place on record the following recommendations:

*First:* That there be a fresh recognition of the primary importance of evangelism in all foreign mission endeavor.

*Second:* That there be effected a thorough use of other agencies in foreign mission work not specifically known as evangelistic for securing greater evangelistic results.

*Third:* That there be a re-emphasis on adherence to the fundamental principle of genuine conversion before acceptance for baptism.

THE SECOND GOAL IS A TOTAL MISSIONARY FORCE OF FIVE THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN IN AMERICA AND IN THE NON-CHRISTIAN WORLD. The force at present numbers 3612 of whom 559 are in the service of the American Baptist Foreign Mission

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Society, not including those connected with the Woman's Society. If the present proportion of workers in America and on the foreign field is maintained the foreign missionaries ought to number 774 at the end of five years.

A study of the totals of recent years is of particular interest. Since 1911, the year after the Society assumed responsibility for the mission in Bengal-Orissa, formerly maintained by the Free Baptists, the number of missionaries reported each year was as follows:

Year	Missionary Staff			New Missionaries Sent Out		
	A.B.F.M.S.	Woman's Society	Total	A.B.F.M.S.	Woman's Society	Total
1911	543	179	722	31	16	47
1912	535	162	697	26	7	33
1913	536	165	701	25	10	35
1914	559	153	712	22	8	30

Thus it will be observed that although 104 new missionaries sailed for the field *there was a net increase of only 16 in the total during the four years.* The loss was occasioned by death, illness, retirement and numerous other contingencies. Consequently, if the foreign mission force is to be increased to 774 at the end of five years it means that not alone must 225, the difference between 774 and 559 be added to the current workers, but in addition a sufficient number of new missionaries must be sent out to take the places of those who may die or become incapacitated for further service. In other words the 225 must represent a net increase in five years as compared with a net increase of only 16 in four years.

The importance of increasing the foreign missionary staff cannot be over-emphasized. The demand for reenforcements merely to provide for the normal development of the work already begun is prodigious. It is difficult to forecast whether a total force of 774 at the end of five years will be able to undertake more than the supervision of this normal development without even thinking of advance work. The opportunities indicated above, of reaping a harvest of more than Pentecostal dimensions show clearly how tremendous is the need of additional workers.

Aside from this there are loud calls for reenforcements for purposes of relief. Scores of missionaries, because their associates have been disabled or are on furlough, are overburdened with work. In some cases one missionary is doing the duties of three thereby placing a heavy mortgage upon his own future strength and efficiency. Missionaries coming home on furlough frequently are compelled to leave their entire work in charge of native preachers because no other missionaries can be assigned to take their places. The unspeakable loneliness of the missionary's life also cries aloud for reenforcements, even if for no other reason than companionship. A missionary and his wife are today alone in a jungle station in Africa surrounded by cannibal tribes. Another missionary, whose wife because of illness is in America, is absolutely alone in the hills of Assam, the nearest white

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man being a government officer forty miles away. Recently a new recruit nearly lost his life because no medical missionary was available in an hour of emergency. For these and many others in dire need of help the second goal of the Five Year Program has not been advocated too soon.

In view of these representative facts the Board recommend the following:

*First:* The appointment of a sufficient number of new missionaries within the next five years to result in a net increase of 225 in the total missionary force (it being understood that this total would represent the proportion of the desired five thousand at home and abroad).

*Second:* The cooperation of every agency and institution having relations with the young people of the denomination in emphasizing the claims and needs of foreign mission service.

*Third:* The placing of fresh emphasis upon the divine call and the sacrificial consecration involved in a missionary career.

THE THIRD GOAL IS AN ENDOWMENT OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE MINISTERS' AND MISSIONARIES' BENEFIT BOARD. It is within the facts to say that the denomination as a whole has failed heretofore to make provision for the adequate support of its ministers and missionaries who have given the best years of their lives to the work of the Kingdom and are now physically incapacitated for further service. The Ministers' and Missionaries' Benefit Board, although of recent origin, has already demonstrated the need and importance of its existence. The appeals that have come for aid to servants of the denomination, crippled, nervously wrecked, in poverty and distress, often with families dependent upon them for support, have been pitiful and worthy of every consideration. The denomination which they have served owes them not charity but justice, and in their closing years they deserve that relief from earthly care and the horror of want which they were not able to guarantee for themselves because of meagre salaries while in active service. The recent large gifts to the Board ought to prove a great inspiration in the effort to secure the full endowment of two million which is not by any means too large.

The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society is vitally interested in this matter. The work of the missionary is such that even the most physically robust frequently give way under the terrible strain of loneliness, climatic conditions and other features of environment. Often their health is so impaired and irretrievably wrecked as not only to make return to the field impossible but also to disable them permanently for any service at home. Consequently the Society is morally bound to provide for them so long as their lives are spared. A broken constitution, return to America, the abandonment of a career, the shattering of noble ambitions, the gloomy prospect of future years of physical suffering and distress and with it all the knowledge of the vast untouched opportunity and need on the field—these are some of the tragedies that come into a missionary's life.

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There are today twenty-five missionaries, including widows, who because of age, infirmity and ill health cannot render active service. Of these fourteen have spent thirty years and more on the distant frontier lines of Christianity. During the past four years the Society has paid a total of \$61,197.79 in the form of aid, grants and allowances for the support of these missionaries and dependent widows. The total was distributed as follows:

1914-1915	.....	\$17,525.67
1913-1914	.....	15,150.00
1912-1913	.....	13,284.12
1911-1912	.....	15,238.00

Thus the average annual expenditure for the care of retired veterans amounts to \$15,299.45, which would represent the income of a fund of approximately \$400,000 figured at four per cent. Could provision be made for these missionaries from other funds, there would be released more than \$15,000 for the regular work of advancing the Kingdom in the ten mission fields now maintained.

In view of this the Board of Managers recommend in connection with the third goal in the Five Year Program the following:

The ultimate assumption by the Ministers' and Missionaries' Benefit Board of the care of all retired missionaries and dependent widows, the support of whom is now being provided for out of current funds of the Society.

**THE FOURTH GOAL IS A FUND OF SIX MILLION DOLLARS FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT AND EQUIPMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD.** In the realization of this aim the Foreign Mission Society is deeply concerned for the reason that in its broadest sense educational work on the foreign field in importance is secondary only to that of evangelism. While the preaching of the gospel by foreign missionaries will continue indefinitely, it must inevitably give place as soon as practicable to evangelization by native Christian forces. This demands an educational work adequate to the task of training native leaders, for if an educated and trained ministry is of pressing importance in America it is of infinitely more importance in the foreign field. Without primary and secondary schools the native church may be evangelized but remains unintelligent and inefficient. Without institutions of higher education native leaders cannot be trained to take the initiative in the growth and development of the church and in influencing and moulding the life and thought of the nation. Evangelism and education are therefore both essential for the successful achievement of the foreign mission enterprise.

A brief survey of the educational work of the Society would indicate even to a casual observer how inadequate are the present institutions maintained by the Society, both in number and equipment, for the successful training of native workers who in cooperation with our foreign missionaries shall carry on the work

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of evangelizing their people. The educational opportunities are vast while the needs are overwhelmingly great. Out of every 1000 children in China only eight are attending schools, the other 992 grow into manhood and womanhood ignorant and illiterate. Compare this with the United States where 720 children out of every 1,000 are in school. In India after decades of reformatory and educational work on the part of the British government ninety per cent. of the population are still illiterate. Concerning Africa no statistics are available or necessary to convey a picture of the ignorance in the dark continent. For such needs the Society is maintaining independently and in cooperation with other societies five colleges, twenty-nine training schools or theological seminaries and 2344 secondary and primary schools with a total enrolment of approximately 81,000 pupils. In view of the need for educational privileges for the Christian communities and in view of the countless population which ought to be reached and could be reached by Christian schools, the number of such institutions, especially of primary and secondary grade, ought to be greatly increased.

Moreover, the equipment of practically all our institutions of higher education is so inadequate that the attainment of even a reasonable degree of efficiency is surprising and the recorded success from year to year is therefore all the more remarkable. While the Rangoon Baptist College has the best equipment of any of our higher schools there nevertheless is urgent need for a students' dining hall and a chemical laboratory. Buildings for the Bible school, high school, and industrial department of the Jorhat Christian Schools in Assam are an immediate necessity. In West China the Society is asked to contribute at once \$12,500 for the erection of the central buildings for the West China Union University. Missionaries' residences and a students' dormitory are needed for the Baptist College and Seminary at Shanghai, and \$15,000 should be provided at once for buildings for the Japan Baptist Theological Seminary. A central recitation building is greatly needed for the Congo Evangelical Training Institution at Kimpesi. Numerous school buildings are urgently required for the lower schools in South India, Bengal, Assam, Burma and China. These are but typical of many needs that might be mentioned for which funds have been insufficient.

The Society has thus far found it financially impossible to perform adequately the dual function of an evangelistic and educational agency. Baptist institutions at home are cared for by separate boards of trustees and have distinct constituencies to whom appeals are made for funds. A church and a school might make separate appeals even to the same constituency. On the foreign field the evangelistic and educational tasks are so intimately related and so interdependent as to make such a separation unwise, if not impossible. The Society therefore has been obliged to use for both education and evangelism funds raised on the basis of a single appeal. Immense relief would be afforded if special sources of support could be opened for supplying the distinctive and heavy demands of the educational work.

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The amount appropriated annually by the Board for the maintenance of educational work on the field approximates \$140,000. This fund includes the salaries of missionaries and native teachers, educational material, and upkeep of buildings, and assistance to students. If an endowment were to be sought sufficient to provide for this annual expenditure not less than \$3,500,000 would be required. It is the judgment of the Board, however, that funds for endowment should be for educational work in general rather than for specific institutions in order to secure the largest possible cooperation of the native Christian community in support of these institutions which ultimately will come under their control.

The Board of Managers therefore recommend the following:

*First:* That of the proposed fund of "six million dollars for additional educational endowment and equipment at home and abroad," at least one million dollars be assigned for equipment and endowment of educational institutions now maintained and hereafter organized by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

*Second:* That there be accorded to educational work on the foreign field a fuller recognition of its importance in the transfer of responsibilities from the foreign missionary to native leadership.

**THE FINAL GOAL IS AN ANNUAL INCOME OF SIX MILLION DOLLARS FOR MISSIONS AND BENEVOLENCE.** Since the contributions to the work of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society are greater than those to any other organization within the denomination, it is only natural that the Society should be vitally concerned in the realization of this goal. The desired total is by no means high when compared with the amount now raised each year for missions and benevolence. According to the financial reports of the several societies as published in the Northern Baptist Convention Annual for 1915 the amounts received from all sources for all missionary purposes during the preceding financial year reached a total of approximately three million, five hundred thousand dollars.

It will be observed, therefore, that the goal of six million dollars means an increase of about seventy per cent. of the amount now raised annually. This is not expected immediately, but by gradual increases over a period of five years, so that for the fiscal year closing March 31, 1920, every one of the denominational missionary organizations will be able to report receipts approximately seventy per cent. more than they reported March 31, 1915.

The Foreign Mission Society has today abundant opportunities calling for increased appropriations which because of lack of funds are not available. One reason for the adoption of the intensive policy was that *the normal development of the work already begun could not be provided for out of present financial resources.* A large increase in the Society's income would permit the increase in missionary force required by the second goal. There would be adequate provision for the maintenance and equipment of hospitals and the construction of church buildings

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and residences so sorely needed on all the mission fields. Numerous additional native evangelists and preachers could be engaged thereby making possible a thorough, adequate and systematic cultivation of every field. Furthermore such an increase would permit large advance work in fields now unoccupied by any foreign mission organization. Moreover, so large a sum could be administered and expended annually without any appreciable increase in home expenditures. *In fact the percentage of home expense could actually be greatly reduced.*

In view of this the Board recommend:

The gradual increase in contributions for foreign missions so that the annual income at the end of five years shall show an increase of seventy per cent. of what is now received in order to make possible

*First:* Provision for the addition of \$100,000 in expenditures for the current year as authorized by the Northern Baptist Convention to prevent actual retrenchment in the work now conducted.

*Second:* Adequate financial support for the normal development of the work already begun, and

*Third:* Enlargement and expansion of the work as rapidly as the increase in resources will permit.

From the foregoing brief consideration of the foreign mission aspects of the Five Year Program it will be noticed that there is a logical sequence in the five goals which probably has not been noticed heretofore. The winning on the foreign field of the desired proportion of the one million converts obviously depends, humanly speaking, on a large increase in missionary forces and a larger use of native agencies. This in turn shows the necessity of making more adequate provision for the closing years of missionary veterans who have placed their health and life's strength upon the altar of foreign service. Again the larger force of missionaries cannot do justice to their calling or their tasks without equipment for the education and training of native leaders. And as indicated in the final goal, this advance in missionary endeavor can be possible only with a corresponding increase in missionary resources.

One consideration remains. Above all else the spiritual emphasis must be maintained. Without it the five goals are but mere denominational dreams beyond all possibility of realization. Theological conceptions may change and dogmas may come and go but truth abides. The world is still lost in sin and the gospel is still the only cure. With this truth continually emphasized, with a revival of denominational prayer and with the inspiration that comes from a recognition of human cooperation with the divine, the five year program can be realized and it will prove to be a worthy accomplishment for a denomination such as ours to undertake.



**F**OR additional copies of this pamphlet or information regarding the work of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, write to any of the following:

1. The nearest District Secretary.

2. Department of Missionary Education, 23 East 26th Street, New York City.

3. Literature Department, Box 41, Boston, Mass.